

## **ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES – MULTILATERAL FUND AND GTZ APPROACH**

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Under the Montreal Protocol, governments around the world have agreed on phase-out schedules for methyl bromide. Developing countries use approximately 25% of the global supply of this fumigant, mainly for high-value horticultural crops and durable commodities. Consumption of methyl bromide is decreasing in some developing countries while increasing in others.

### Multilateral Fund

The Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund provides technical and economic assistance for developing countries to phase out ozone depleting substances. By March 1999, the Fund had approved 61 methyl bromide projects in 32 countries. The Protocol decided to focus initially on demonstrations of existing alternatives, so the majority of projects evaluate and demonstrate alternative techniques that are used commercially in some regions of the world. Other projects have disseminated information and assisted with training or policy development.

The Fund has recently changed its focus, sponsoring projects that directly phase-out use of methyl bromide in specific sectors, through training programs and technology transfer. Their aim is to ensure that developing countries will be able to meet their commitments to phase-out methyl bromide.

The Fund's guidelines for methyl bromide projects are in the process of being revised to reflect the new focus. This paper provides information on the issues under discussion for the revised guidelines.

Multilateral Fund projects are implemented in partnership with the governments of developing countries by UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP, the World Bank, and development agencies of industrialized countries such as Australia, Canada, Germany and USA.

### GTZ Approach

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) implements technical co-operation with developing countries on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Rapid phase-out of methyl bromide has been

given high priority among its agricultural and environmental activities.

GTZ is working with partner countries to develop programs to introduce alternative systems that are environmentally sound and economically viable, meeting the long-term needs of farmers, rural communities, purchasing companies and consumers. Methyl bromide projects may include the development of components such as:

- National plans and programs
- Regulatory measures, such as import controls and pesticide regulations relating to methyl bromide
- Awareness raising, information exchange and policy dialogue
- Demonstrations of alternatives
- Training programs for farmers and extension personnel
- Technical and financial support for farmers to adopt alternative systems
- Investment in companies supplying alternative products and services

GTZ's approach can be summarized as follows:

- Participatory process, fully involving farmers, extension personnel, researchers, agricultural organizations, NGOs and all other stakeholders
- Effective tools for project planning, implementation and review (ZOPP)
- Framework of national policy commitments and action plans
- Demonstrations, on-site training and learning-by-doing
- Focus on farmers and farm-based activities
- Environmentally sound, economically viable, long-term solutions
- Building on existing infrastructure for agriculture and ozone protection
- Building up local expertise and capabilities, so improvements will continue after projects have finished

#### GTZ Agricultural Projects

GTZ has undertaken a variety of agricultural projects with developing country partners and agricultural agencies. Examples include:

- IPM projects in Argentina, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Honduras, Jordan, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Panama, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand.
- Pesticide projects in Brazil, China, Jamaica, Mozambique.
- Regional projects in biological plant protection for food crops in 26 countries in Africa: IPM for vegetables and fruit crops in 6 African countries; post-harvest protection in 4 countries in Africa; research and development projects on a variety of agricultural issues; and pesticide control and disposal services worldwide.